

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An integrated apparatus ~~system~~ for portraying and reproducing information on a surface, the apparatus comprising:

a whiteboard panel for temporary display of user-drawn marks made by markers dispensing erasable ink;

a digitizer for generating digital information corresponding to the user-drawn marks;

an indexer for associating the digital information with a header,

wherein the header is extracted exclusively from the digital information and based at least in part on a selected portion of the user-drawn marks selected by the user; and

a plotter for providing said whiteboard ~~reusable~~ panel with redisplay capability,

wherein the associated digital information is displayed on the whiteboard reusable panel via the redisplay capability of said plotter as machine-drawn marks at an option of the user, and wherein the plotter drawn marks reproduce the user-drawn marks from which the associated digital information was generated[.],wherein the selected portion of the user-drawn marks corresponds to a circled region of the whiteboard notes, wherein the circle region includes a circle enclosing or partially enclosing the user-drawn marks;

wherein the indexer uses an indexing method, the method comprising:

extracting the circled region of the whiteboard notes using circled region extraction;
constructing a header based at least in part on the circled region; and
removing a circle from the circled region prior to associating the digital information as data.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the digitizer corresponds to a scanner for scanning whiteboard notes from the whiteboard panel.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, where the indexing method further comprises

~~extracting a circled region of the whiteboard notes using circled region extraction;~~
~~constructing a header based at least in part on the circled region;~~
~~removing a circle from the circled region prior to associating the digital information as data; and~~
associating the digital information as data with the header as metadata.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the user-drawn marks contain plural circled regions, wherein every circled region is extracted, wherein headers are constructed for each circled region, and wherein the digital information is associated as data with each header as metadata.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5[[7]], wherein the indexing method further comprises a [[the]] step of constructing recognized text using handwriting recognition on the circled region from which the circle has been removed, and wherein the header is based at least in part on the recognized text.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an active display for display of a plurality of said headers, wherein associated digital information that is digital information associated with a header is concurrently displayed on said active display with the header upon selection of the header by a user.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5[[7]], wherein there exists only one circle in each circled region, wherein the circle is a concave curve that is at least one of closed and near closed, wherein speckle noise has been removed from the circled region via preprocessing, and wherein the step of removing the circle from the circled region employs a circle removal method, the method comprising:

moving a scan line in a plane of the circle region in a first direction;

scanning the circled region in a second direction, wherein the second direction lies in a complementary fashion to the first direction in the plane of the circled region;

detecting non-background pixels within the scan line corresponding to the circle;

and

erasing the non-background pixels.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the circle removal method further comprises:

detecting a first non-background pixel within the scan line, wherein the first non-background pixel corresponds to the non-background pixel first detected in a first linear scan of all pixels in the scan line;

detecting a first background pixel within the scan line, wherein the first background pixel corresponds to the background pixel first detected after detection of the first non-background pixel in the first linear scan of all pixels in the scan line;

detecting a second non-background pixel within the scan line, wherein the second non-background pixel corresponds to the non-background pixel last detected in the first linear scan of all pixels in the scan line;

detecting a second background pixel within the scan line, wherein the second background pixel corresponds to the background pixel first detected in a second linear scan of pixels in the scan line, wherein the second linear scan starts at the second non-background pixel and proceeds in a direction opposite to the first linear scan;

removing the first non-background pixel;

removing all non-background pixels between the first non-background pixel and the first background pixel;

removing the second non-background pixel; and

removing all non-background pixels between the second non-background pixel and the second background pixel.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An indexing method for use with an index and retrieval system for scanned notes from whiteboard, the method comprising:

extracting a selected portion of user-drawn marks from the scanned notes from the whiteboard, wherein the selected portion is selected by a user and includes a circle enclosing or partially enclosing the user drawn marks; and

constructing a header based at least in part on the selected portion;

removing the circle from the selected portion; and

associating digital information as data with the header as metadata,

wherein the digital information is generated at least in part from the user-drawn marks;

displaying index information associated with metadata, wherein the metadata indexes data corresponding to digital information generated from user-drawn marks, and wherein the metadata corresponds to a header based at least in part on a selected portion of the user-drawn marks; and

creating the user-drawn marks in response to user-selection of the index information.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the user-drawn marks contain plural selected portions, wherein headers are constructed based at least in part on each selected portion, and wherein the digital information is associated as data with each header as metadata.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the selected portion of the user-drawn marks corresponds to a marked-up region, wherein the indexing method further comprises a ~~the~~ step of removing mark-up from the marked-up region, and wherein the header is based at least in part on the marked-up region from which mark-up has been removed.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, the method further comprising the step of constructing recognized text using handwriting recognition on the marked-up region from which the mark-up has been removed, and wherein the header is based at least in part on the recognized text.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the user-drawn marks correspond to whiteboard notes, wherein the selected portion corresponds to a circled region, wherein the index information is a header corresponding to at least one of an image of the circled region and recognized text from within the circled region, and wherein the whiteboard notes associated with the header are concurrently displayed on the active display when the header is selected.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A mark-up removal method for use with an index and retrieval system, the method comprising:

moving a scan line in a plane of an image having a marked-up region in a first direction, wherein the marked region included user-drawn notes enclosed by a mark-up;

scanning the marked-up region in a second direction, wherein the second direction lies in a complementary fashion to the first direction in the plane of the image;

detecting non-background pixels within the scan line corresponding to the mark-up of the image; and

erasing the non-background pixels, wherein the mark-up is a user drawn circle, wherein there exists only one circle in each marked-up region, wherein the user drawn circle is a concave curve that is at least one of closed and near closed, and wherein speckle noise has been removed from the marked-up region via preprocessing.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, method further comprising:

detecting a first non-background pixel within the scan line, wherein the first non-background pixel corresponds to the non-background pixel first detected in a first linear scan of all pixels in the scan line;

detecting a first background pixel within the scan line, wherein the first background pixel corresponds to the background pixel first detected after detection of the first non-background pixel in the first linear scan of all pixels in the scan line;

detecting a second non-background pixel within the scan line, wherein the second non-background pixel corresponds to the non-background pixel last detected in the first linear scan of all pixels in the scan line;

detecting a second background pixel within the scan line, wherein the second background pixel corresponds to the background pixel first detected in a second linear scan of pixels in the scan line, wherein the second linear scan starts at the second non-background pixel and proceeds in a direction opposite to the first linear scan;

removing the first non-background pixel;

removing all non-background pixels between the first non-background pixel and the first background pixel;

removing the second non-background pixel; and

removing all non-background pixels between the second non-background pixel and the second background pixel.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for marking and displaying information, the apparatus comprising:

a panel for receiving user marks created by the user in a physical form;

a scanner for scanning and converting at least one selected portion of said users marks into a digital form, said scanner transmitting said digital form of said selected portion to a memory for storage;

an indexer for creating at least one header corresponding to said digital forms of said user marks, ~~wherein said browser screen providing a choice of at least one of said headers corresponding to at least one of said digital forms to the user to select at least one of said digital forms stored in said memory;~~

a browser screen for providing an interface for the user to select for generation at least one of a plurality of said digital forms of said user marks stored in said memory, wherein said browser screen providing a choice of at least one of said headers corresponding to at least one of said digital forms to the user to select at least one of said digital forms stored in said memory; and

a plotter ~~marking device~~ for generating at least one of said digital forms of said user marks selected through said browser screen onto said panel in said physical form.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said indexer ~~index~~ applying a circled region extraction technique for creating a given said header corresponding to a given said digital form.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said panel corresponds to a white board panel having a surface for receiving marks made by the user using temporary markers dispensing erasable ink.